(*b*) will Government give a short account of the condition of their health and well-being;

(*c*) are these people supplied Malayalam newspapers;

(*d*) are there Reading Rooms provided for groups of these people to spend their leisure hours in the evenings;

(*e*) what is the nature of the food supplied?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) Nine Labour Units have so far left the State for work in North India.

(*b*) The health of the labourers is reported to be very satisfactory. Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon, the Assistant Labour Liaison Officer who has visited most of the Units writes that the labourers appear to have put on more weight. They look to him very fit. There have, recently, been attacks of malaria in one Unit.

(*c*) Government have not arranged for the supply of newspapers.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Par boiled rice, cocoanut oil, tamarind, vegetables and meat are regularly supplied.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Why can't they be given some Malayalam newspapers for spending their leisure time usefully?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Why they are paid one rupee per day. They can buy it.

PROSECUTIONS FOR SALES OF RICE ABOVE THE NOTIFIED RATE—PARTICULARS OF

108. Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin-Christians-Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many persons were prosecuted in the year 1117 for selling the rice above the fixed rate of Government;

(*b*) what punishments were given to those persons in each case?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):*

(*a*) 19.

(*b*) *A list containing the particulars is placed on the Council table.

Mr. B. M. Peter *(Latin-Christians-Mattancheri):* The list shows very light punishments are given.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Have the Government considered that in the case of these merchants who are making lots and lots of money by lawful and unlawful methods the imposition of a nominal fine of Rs. 200 or 300 cannot be a deterrent punishment?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* Government have no information that merchants are making lots and lots of money by unlawful methods.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Have not the Government known that some people are breaking the laws. There are various instances where merchants are selling above the schedule rates.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* They will all be punished and they have all been punished.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* The punishment is a matter of discretion to the courts. If the court punishes in a particular way you cannot find fault with the court.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Our complaint is regarding the law itself. The law does not provide apart from the nominal punishment of fine anything of a deterrent punishment. Our complaint is regarding the lightness of the provision in the law itself.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* What do you mean by nominal fine?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Up to one thousand rupees they can be fined, and imprison according to seriousness of the offence. There is no minimum punishment prescribed. The court can punish with fine from Re. 1 to 1,000 rupees and with imprisonment also. For the first time, they are let off with a light punishment, as a warning. If it is repeated, they will be more seriously punished.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Our complaint is that people may make a regular business of light laws. Those who are making Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 may not mind paying a fine of Rs. 100, and they may go on making large profits unlawfully, ever prepared to pay small fines. Such people must be imprisoned. If there is an alternative of fine alone it should be done away with instantly.

* Appendix VII

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Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Courts of law are keeping pace with the recurrence of the offences.

Mr. President: This is question time. I request Hon'ble Member to ask questions.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* When there is a repetition of the same crime the punishment may be increased. There have been cases where Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 have been imposed as fine.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* If there is a repetition of the offence, the fine also should be increased.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the petty merchants making Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 are prosecuted?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Yes they are prosecuted.

CASTEWAR STATEMENT OF THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

109. Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* (*a*) Will Government be pleased to give a caste-war statement of the staff of the Office of the Commissioner of Police as it existed on the 1st of April 1942;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to state if any changes have been made in the personnel of the Police Commissioner's Office after the 1st of April 1942;

(*c*) if any change has been effected, will Government kindly state the nature of the change?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* (*a*) A statement is appended. *(Appendix VIII).*

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (1) Officiating Manager, Mr. A. Krishna Menon (Rs. 100—150) was transferred as officiating Sub-Magistrate, Irinjalakkuda (Rs. 125—150) on 2nd April 1942.

(2) Mr. K. A. Narayana Menon, Inspector of Police, C. I. B., (Rs. 80+20 duty allowance) was appointed as officiating Manager of the Head Office on Rs. 100—150 on 18th April 1942.

(3) A. S. Neelakantan Asari was appointed as officiating attender on Rs. 16 on 14th April 1942 and was thrown out on 20th May 1942.

(4) Miss Ruby E. Daniel, officiating attender on Rs. 16 was dispensed with on 2nd May 1942.

(5) V. N. Ayyappan was appointed as officiating attender on Rs. 16 on 3rd May 1942.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether any minimum qualification has been prescribed for the Manager of the Office of the Police Commissioner?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* He should be a graduate.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Was there not an order that only a law-graduate should be appointed in the offices of the District Magistrate and the Police Commissioner some time back?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I want notice.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I ask with regard to this question whether there was any such order that only law graduates should be appointed as the Head clerk of the District Magistrate Court and Manager of the Police Commissioner's Office.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know Sir, whether during the last five years any person who was not a law graduate has been holding this post?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Of course there is one thing.

The President left the Chair at 11-57 when Mr. K. Ayyappan, the Deputy President took the Chair.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The Manager of the Police Commissioner's Office was until about a year ago, a law-graduate and the Head clerk of the District Magistrate's Court is also a law-graduate.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* My question is whether in the appointment of the present incumbent to the post, Government have issued any exemption. The Police Commissioner says that the minimum qualification prescribed is B. A. Even admitting

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